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FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: U.S. REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN NORWAY'S INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFERS ON FORMULA PRODUCTS

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1. THE TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAPER (TPSC 78-98) RE U.S. REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN NORWAY'S INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFERS ON FORMULA PRODUCTS. THE ATTACHMENTS WERE PREVIOUSLY SENT TO GENEVA AS ONE LIST. FOR CONVENIENCE, THIS CABLE LISTS THE ITEMS, BY NUMBER, WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN EACH ATTACHMENT.

2. PROBLEM:

- (A) NORWAY HAS MADE A FORMULA OFFER TO THE U.S. IN THE MTN. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OFFER WOULD RESULT IN NORWAY'S GIVING THE U.S. A SMALLER DEPTH OF CUT THAN THE U.S. WOULD BE GIVING.
- (B) THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO SEEK FROM NORWAY GREATER THAN FORMULA TARIFF CUTS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO U.S. EXPORTERS TO ACHIEVE AN AVERAGE NORWEGIAN DEPTH OF CUT EQUAL TO THAT OFFERED BY THE U.S. ON FORMULA PRODUCTS.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

(A) THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD GIVE THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION THE ATTACHED LIST OF U.S. REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE NORWEGIAN TARIFF OFFER (ATTACHMENT 1), DRAWING ON THE BACKGROUND SECTION AS APPROPRIATE IN PRESENTING THE LIST

(B) THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE U.S. EXPECTS NORWAY, AS A FORMULA DEVELOPED COUNTRY, TO OFFER THE U.S. AN EQUIVALENT DEPTH OF CUT TO THAT OFFERED NORWAY BY THE U.S. MOREOVER, THE EXCEPTIONS DETAILED IN NORWAY'S MAY OFFER INCLUDE A FEW ITEMS OF PRIORITY INTEREST TO U.S. INDUSTRY. AMONG THOSE ITEMS (ATTACHLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT 3), THE U.S. WOULD WISH TO SEE A MAINTENANCE OF THE FORMULA REDUCTION FOR SOME PRODUCTS AND GREATER-THAN-FORMULA CUTS FOR OTHERS.

4. DISCUSSION:

- (A) IN JANUARY 1978, NORWAY TOGETHER WITH FINLAND AND SWEDEN OFFERED IN THE MTN TO APPLY A FORMULA OF Z EQUALS 16X OVER X PLUS 16. AT THAT TIME NORWAY NOTED THAT A MORE COMPLETE OFFER WOULD BE TABLED AT A LATER DATE AND THAT THE OFFER MIGHT CONTAIN EXCEPTIONS. IN MAY 1978, NORWAY TABLED A DETAILED FORMULA OFFER ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.
- (B) A STRAIGHT FORMULA CUT BY NORWAY WITH NO EXCEPTIONS WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN AN AVERAGE DEPTH OF CUT TO THE U.S. OF 34.7 PERCENT. THE REVISED NORWEGIAN OFFER WHICH INCLUDES EXCEPTIONS RESULTS IN AN ESTIMATED AVERAGE DEPTH OF CUT TO THE U.S. OF 35.2 PERCENT. (DIFFERENCES OF BASES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NORWEGIAN CALCULATIONS PROBABLY ACCOUNT FOR THE GREATER DEPTH OF CUT AFTER EXCEPTIONS.) IF THE CURRENT U.S. OFFER IS MAINTAINED, THE AVERAGE DEPTH OF CUT TO NORWAY WOULD BE 53.8 PERCENT.

SINCE NORWAY IS A FORMULA DEVELOPED COUNTRY, THE U.S. IS SEEKING AN EQUIVALENT DEPTH OF CUT.

(C) THE U.S. REQUEST LISTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS (ATTACHMENT 1) AND MAINTENANCE (ATTACHMENT 2) REPRESENT A SERIOUS EFFORT TO IDENTIFY U.S. PRIORITY EXPORT INTERESTS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IN THE NORWEGIAN MARKET. THE LIST HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH INDUSTRY ADVISORS AND REVIEWED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS TO ENSURE THAT THE CONCESSIONS SOUGHT WOULD RESULT IN IMPROVED U.S. TRADE OPPORTUNITIES. THE ITEMS IN ATTACHMENT 1 CAN BE GIVEN TO NORWAY AS U.S. INTERESTS IN GREATER-THAN-FORMULA CUTS. THOSE IN ATTACHMENT 2 MAY BE USED BY THE DELEGATION FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD THE NORWEGIANS WITHDRAW THEIR OFFERS.

(D) THE LISTS INCLUDE PRODUCTS SUCH AS PAPER AND PAPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOARD, STOVES, REFRIGERATORS, SOME HEAVY MACHINERY, ENGINE PARTS AND TAPS, COCKS AND VALVES.

- (E) IF NORWAY WERE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR CURRENT OFFER, INCLUDING EXCEPTIONS, AND INCLUDE OUR REQUESTS FOR GREATER-THAN-FORMULA REDUCTIONS, THE RESULTING AVERAGE DEPTH OF CUT BASED ON U.S. TRADE WOULD BE CLOSE (56.0 PERCENT) TO THE VALUE OF THE U.S. OFFER TO NORWAY (53.8 PERCENT AS OF JANUARY 23).
- (F) THE NORWEGIAN EXCEPTIONS INCLUDE A FEW ITEMS WHICH THE U.S. CONSIDERS TO BE OF PRIORITY INTEREST -- EITHER FOR MAINTENANCE IN THE OFFER AS A FORMULA ITEM OR FOR GREATER-THAN-FORMULA REDUCTIONS. THESE ITEMS (ATTACHMENT 3) REMAIN OF INTEREST AND WE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR INCLUSION IN THE NORWEGIAN OFFER.
- 5. ATTACHMENT 1 U.S. REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE NORWEGIAN TARIFF OFFER

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6. ATTACHMENT 2: U.S. REQUESTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF
NORWEGIAN TARIFF OFFERS
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